

REMARKS

The present filing is responsive to the Office Action.

Summary of the Response

Claims 1, 2 and 9 have been amended. New claims 10-17 have been added. Claim 8 has been canceled. Claim 3 has been previously canceled. Claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 9-17 remain pending in this application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application as amended are respectfully requested.

Examiner Interview

Applicant appreciates the opportunity of a telephone interview with the Examiner on May 24, 2011. The parties discussed the cited prior art and possible amendments to claim 1 that may define over the cited prior art. While no agreement had been reached at the interview, Applicant has a better understanding of the Examiner's concerns, and can better address those concerns in the present response. Applicant believes the amendments presented herein overcome the rejection, in a manner consistent with the discussions at the interview.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon et al. (US 2002/0089623) in view of Ha et al. (US 2001/0017679). Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon et al. (US 2002/0089623) and Ha et al. (US 2001/0017679) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Ozawa et al. (US 2004/0004681). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 as amended recites wherein said reflective region further comprises a retarder supported on a side of said first substrate which is towards said backlight, and a stepwise member made of a resin material supported on an opposite side of said first substrate which is towards said liquid crystal material, and wherein said reflective member is supported on the stepwise member. This structure is supported by the original specification, specifically the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 3(b), in which the stepwise member 12f and the retarder 12h are on opposite sides of the substrate 12a, and a reflector 12d (not shown in Fig. 3(b) but discussed at [62]) is supported by the stepwise member 12f. The stepwise member 12f is made of resin material (specification at [61]).

In the present action, the Examiner acknowledged that Moon fails to disclose the retarder and the stepwise member are on opposite sides of the first substrate. Accordingly, Moon also fails to teach a reflector supported by the stepwise member. The Examiner relied on Ha for the missing teaching. However, with respect to claim 1 as amended, Ha fails to teach a reflector supported by a stepwise member. Referring to Fig. 5, Ha at most discloses a reflective portion 107 (an electrode) and a retardation 113 on opposite side of lower substrate 111, but the reflective portion 107 (which is made of metal as it also serves as an electrode) is not supported by any stepwise member made of resin material on the same side of the substrate 111, opposite the side on which the retardation 113 is disposed.

Accordingly, even if Moon and Ha can somehow be combined in the manner suggested only by the Examiner, such combination would not obtain the invention defined by claim 1 as amended. Claim 1 as amended and all its dependent claims are therefore not rendered obvious by Moon and Ha. Ozawa does not make up for the deficiencies of Moon and Ha.

New Claims

New dependent claims 10-17 have been added to round out the coverage of the present invention, and to further distinguish from the cited references. Applicant respectfully submits that the new claims are patentable over the cited references, for at least the reasons noted above. Further, neither Moon nor Ha discloses the combination of structures recited in the new dependent claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of all the foregoing, Applicant submits that the claims pending in this application are patentable over the references of record and are in condition for allowance. Such action at an early date is earnestly solicited. **The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative to discuss any outstanding issues that may not have been adequately addressed in this response.**

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this transmittal and associated documents, or to credit any overpayment to **Deposit Account No. 501288** referencing the attorney docket number of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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